

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 IO-14 JUSE-00
NSAE-00 CTME-00 SNM-05 TRSE-00 ICA-20 NSC-05
OES-09 OMB-01 DOTE-00 PA-02 EB-08 /089 W
-----018593 151222Z /50

R 131535Z JUL 78

FM AMEMBASSY NASSAU
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1285
INFO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
USINT HAVANA
AMEMBASSY PORT AU PRINCE
AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO
DEA HEADQUARTERS WASHDC
USCOAST GUARD WASHDC

UNCLAS NASSAU 1484

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ECON, EFIS, SNAR, PGOV, US, BF

SUBJECT: PM ON INVASION OF DRUG SMUGGLERS, ILLEGAL ALIENS &
ILLEGAL FISHING

REF A. NASSAU A-1 B. NASSAU 009 C. NASSAU 1122 D. NASSAU 805

1. PM LYNDEN O. PINDLING, APPEARING ON TELEVISION TALK PROGRAM "FOCUS" EVENING OF JULY 10 AS PART OF HIS PARTICIPATION IN 5TH ANNIVERSARY OF BAHAMIAN INDEPENDENCE, WARNED THAT BAHAMAS IS FACED WITH "NO LESS THAN AN INVASION OF ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS AND DRUG SMUGGLERS" WHOSE SUCCESS IN INFILTRATING THE VAST NATIONAL BORDERLINE IS LARGELY DUE TO THE FACT THAT BAHAMIANS ARE COOPERATING WITH THOSE WHO EXPLOIT BAHAMIAN GEOGRAPHY. THE PM STERNLY WARNED BAHAMIANS WHO SEEK TO "GET RICH QUICK" BY COOPERATING WITH DRUG SMUGGLERS AND ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS BY ACCEPTING LARGE SUMS TO COVER THE ILLICIT OPERATIONS FROM AUTHORITIES. THE PM, GIVING TV
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VIEWERS A QUICK GEOGRAPHY LESSON OF THE BAHAMAS, SAID THAT THE DRUG SMUGGLERS WHO UTILIZE AIRCRAFT ARE TAKING ADVANTAGE OF THE FACT THAT THERE ARE NUMEROUS UNGUARDED AND UNMANNED AIRSTRIPS ON JUST ABOUT EVERY MAJOR ISLAND OF THE ARCHIPELAGO, NOTING THAT THE AIRSTRIPS WERE CONSTRUCTED TO FACILITATE THE EXPANSION OF TOURISM TO THE FAMILY ISLANDS.

THE PM FURTHER ARGUED THAT THE SUCCESS OF DRUG SMUGGLERS IS NOT ONLY DUE TO THE INABILITY OF BAHAMIAN MARINE POLICE AND DEFENCE FORCE TO ADEQUATELY GUARD THE VAST BAHAMIAN BORDERLINE WHICH ENCOMPASSES 100,000 SQUARE MILES OF OPEN WATER AND 6,000 SQUARE MILES OF LAND, BUT "TO EXTENSIVE COOPERATION FROM BAHAMIANS." (REF C)

2. THE PM SAID THAT "AT THAT VERY MOMENT" THE CUBAN-AMERICANS WERE POACHING CRAWFISH IN THE NORTHWESTERN BAHAMAS WHILE THE CUBANS ARE POACHING THE SOUTHWESTERN WATERS OF THE BAHAMAS AND THE DOMINICANS ARE ILLEGALLY TAKING FISH FROM BAHAMIAN WATERS IN THE EXTREME SOUTHERN BAHAMAS. THE PM INDICATED THAT NOT EVEN THE U.S. CAN ADEQUATELY GUARD ITS ATLANTIC COASTLINE, IMPLYING THE BAHAMAS IS ABLE TO DO SO ON A PROPORTIONATELY INFERIOR SCALE. (REF D)

3. WITH REGARD TO GENERAL ECONOMIC CONDITIONS, THE PM INDICATED THAT CLIMATE FOR INVESTMENT HAD IMPROVED SUBSTANTIALLY SINCE JULY 1977 ELECTION BUT DID NOT OFFER CONCRETE EVIDENCE OF ANY MAJOR INVESTMENT VENTURE WHICH OCCURRED DURING THE PAST YEAR. (REF A) THE PM ALSO NOTED THAT THE GOVERNMENT EXPECTS SOME \$18 MILLION IN REVENUE FROM ITS CASINO OPERATIONS UNCLASSIFIED

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ON NEW PROVIDENCE, PARADISE ISLAND AND FREEPORT THIS YEAR COMPARED WITH \$10 MILLION LAST YEAR (REFS A, B). SCHWARTZ

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DRUGS, INVASIONS, ALIENS, PRESS CONFERENCES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 13 jul 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978NASSAU01484
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780290-1082
Format: TEL
From: NASSAU
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780764/aaaaccaj.tel
Line Count: 97
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 9251da75-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 NASSAU A-1
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 mar 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2021460
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PM ON INVASION OF DRUG SMUGGLERS, ILLEGAL ALIENS & ILLEGAL FISHING
TAGS: ECON, EFIS, SNAR, PGOV, US, BF, (PINDLING, LYNDEN O)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/9251da75-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014